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Federal Curbs Advocated on Police Brutality

Associated Press

Burke Marshall, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division during the Kennedy administration, urged yesterday that police brutality be made a specific crime under federal law.

As it is now, he told the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on criminal laws and procedures, federal prosecutors have to prove intent by one person to deprive another of his constitutional rights.

Marshall, now dean of the Yale Law School, said a major frustration of the Justice Department has been its inability to deal effectively with the use of excessive force by state and local police.